



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

[Click here to go to the Virginia Department for the Aging Home Page](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS AAA TUESDAY E-MAILING February 20, 2008

SUBJECT	VDA ID NUMBER
<u>Money Follows the Person Website</u> (Ellen Nau)	08-56
<u>Website for the 2006 Amendments to the Older Americans Act</u> (Bill Peterson)	08-57
<u>Rebates for Seniors</u> (Bill Peterson)	08-58

Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau, Program Coordinator

DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Money Follows the Person Website

Thank you to the many Area Agencies on Aging that participated in the CMS teleconference on the Money Follows the Program (MFP) on Thursday, January 24. Virginia is one of 31 states participating in this five-year, \$1.75 billion project that is designed to create a system of long-term services and supports to enable qualified individuals to transition from certain long-term care institutions into the community. The MFP project supports Virginia's Olmstead initiative and complements the efforts of the recently awarded Systems Transformation Grant that proposes to improve the infrastructure for community-based long-term supports.

VDA and other interested parties have worked with The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to develop an "Operational Protocol" that will serve as Virginia's program manual or guidebook for the project. Transitions of individuals from long-term care facilities to the community can begin once CMS approves Virginia's operational protocol. The Virginia "MFP" project is scheduled to begin in May 2008. DMAS heads Virginia's MFP project and the project manager is Mr. Jason Rachel. Mr. Rachel can be reached at Jason.Rachel@dmass.virginia.gov.

Once it is approved by CMS, Virginia's MFP program guidebook will be available on the Money Follows the Person website: <http://www.olmsteadva.com/mfp/>. Virginia's MFP project will permanently add services and supports to select home and community-based Medicaid waivers. A chart of these services and supports is on the Virginia MFP website as well as other MFP program information.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: **Website for the 2006 Amendments to the Older Americans Act**

AoA has developed an online "Gateway to the Older Americans Act 2006 Amendments." The Gateway, at http://aoa.gov/oa2006/Main_Site/index.aspx, provides an outline summary of new provisions in the Act, statutory text for each new provision (new/revised language only), and technical assistance resource links.

For select provisions, the site also includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), as well as the opportunity to submit your own questions regarding the 2006 Amendments. In addition, links to specific FAQs are included at the bottom of various "provision" (or topic) pages. AoA will be adding FAQs periodically so you should check back regularly for updates.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Rebates for Seniors

Low-income seniors will need to file tax returns to receive their rebate checks.

The national rebate program the president signed into law last Wednesday requires everyone to **file a 2007 federal tax return**, by April 15 if they want to receive a rebate check. For those who file after April 15, the rebate check could come as late as December.

Some 12 million low-income seniors don't typically file tax returns because they don't have to.

The IRS has said it will make a special effort - working with the Social Security Administration - to reach out to seniors living on Social Security to make sure those who are eligible know what they will need to do.

The IRS outreach will be echoed by the AARP, which is planning a campaign to increase awareness about the rebates among seniors through its publications and Web site as well as TV and radio spots.

If a senior has already filed a return and reported at least \$3,000 in qualifying income, they don't need to do anything else to receive their rebate. The IRS will simply process that return and issue a rebate check.

If low-income seniors need help filling out their forms they can take advantage of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program or the AARP Tax Aide program.